

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council condemns violation by Abkhaz forces of cease-fire agreement with Republic of Georgia; also condemns killing of Chairman of Defence Council of Abkhazia, and demands that all parties refrain use of force and violations of international humanitarian law.
- + Secretary-General, continuing Mozambique stay, meets with South African political figures; expects to visit Somalia, although date not yet set.
- + Security Council -- in formal meeting -- adopts forty-eighth annual report to General Assembly for period 16 June 1992 to 15 June 1993.
- + General Assembly votes to commemorate on 1 November 50th anniversary of Declaration of Four Nations on General Security, which called for establishment of international organization for maintenance of international peace and security.
- + UNHCR appeals for \$1 million to help Somali rape victims in Kenyan refugee camps; says first such appeal in June drew no response at all.

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The Security Council this afternoon reaffirmed its condemnation of the violation by Abkhaz forces of their cease-fire agreement with the Republic of Georgia, and their subsequent violations of international humanitarian law. By unanimously adopting resolution 876 (1993), it also condemned the killing of Zhiuly Shartava, the Chairman of the Defence Council and Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, and demanded that all parties to the conflict refrain the use of force and from any violations of international humanitarian law. The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to send a fact-finding mission to Georgia, in particular to investigate reports of "ethnic cleansing".

While welcoming the humanitarian assistance already provided to victims of the conflict, the Council urged Member States to contribute to relief efforts being carried out by international aid agencies. Saying that the

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continuation of the Abkhaz conflict threatened peace and stability in the region, it also called upon all States to prevent people on their territory or under their jurisdiction from providing any assistance -- other than humanitarian -- to the Abkhaz side. In particular, the resolution urged them to prevent the supply of any weapons and munitions to its forces.

The Council reiterated its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, in cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and with the assistance of the Government of the Russian Federation as a facilitator, to promote efforts to achieve an overall political settlement.

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Continuing his stay in Mozambique, as part of his visit to Africa, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali devoted today to talks on South Africa, according to a United Nations spokesman. Accompanied by James Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Angela King, Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission to South Africa (UNOMSA), he met with South African political figures to apprise himself of recent developments there.

This morning, the Secretary-General met with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, President of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Chief Minister of Kwazulu, South Africa, and stressed the need to follow through on his June meeting with Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress (ANC). He then met with Clarence Makwetu, President of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) and discussed measures for ending the violence in South Africa. The Secretary-General later met with John Hall, Chairperson of the National Peace Committee, and Anthony Gildenhuys, Chairperson of the National Peace Secretariat, and had a working lunch with South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha.

The Secretary-General was still expected to visit Somalia during his visit to Africa, but no date had yet been decided, the spokesman noted.

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The Security Council today adopted its forty-eighth annual report to the General Assembly for the period 16 June 1992 to 15 June 1993. As part of changes in the format of its proceedings, the report was adopted in a formal meeting. By accepting a series of proposals in June 1993, the Council had decided that the report would no longer be issued as a confidential statement.

The changes in format are part of an ongoing discussion of new ways to provide information to States that are not Council members. The Council report, which is issued in a single volume, is being submitted to the Assembly as required by the United Nations Charter. During the period covered by the report, the Council held 152 meetings and adopted 81 resolutions and 95 presidential statements.

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Part I of the report covers questions considered by the Council under its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Part II deals with other matters, such as the admission of new members, while Part III covers the work of the military staff committee. Matters brought to the Council's attention but not discussed during the period covered in the report, which were contained in communications from various Member States, are included in chronological order in Part IV.

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The General Assembly this morning voted to commemorate in its plenary on 1 November the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security, adopted in Moscow on 30 October 1943. The resolution noted that that Declaration called for the establishment, "at the earliest practicable date", of an international organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States and open to membership by all such States, large or small, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Assembly this morning also adopted a resolution taking note of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, including the decision of the Committee that the theme of the anniversary should be "We the peoples of the United Nations ... united for a better world".

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A second urgent appeal for funds to help Somali rape victims has been issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The first such appeal, made in June, elicited no donations at all. The \$1.1 million requested by UNHCR is needed to aid the hundreds of Somali women living in refugee camps in Kenya who have been raped while outside the camps searching for firewood, or attacked inside the camps at night. According to a UNHCR spokesman, the assaults on unmarried women have been particularly vicious, due to the Somali tradition of female circumcision. The practice involves excision and infibulation, so the women have been cut with knives before being raped.

The money was needed for measures to enhance security in the camps, for medicines -- particularly antibiotics to deal with the infections, and for provisions such as garments, the spokesman said. Many of the women, because they had no change of clothes, had had to continue wearing those they had on when they were attacked. Funding was also needed for a public awareness campaign, she said, because many of the women had been rejected by their families and communities after being raped. Those who had had children as a result of rape might never be able to return to Somalia and might need resettlement in a third country.

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